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Ueber die Ernährung und deren Kosten bei deutschen Arbeitern. By H. Lichtenfelt. Massenenverbrauch und Preisbewegung in der Schweiz. By F. Krommelbein. (Stuttgart: Druck und Verlag von W. Kohlhammer. 1911. Pp. xx, 315. 9 m.)

The volume containing these monographs is the second of the Basler Volkswirtschaftliche Arbeiten, edited by Dr. Stephen Bauer. As the titles indicate, the investigations will prove of interest to those working on wage questions, and they have an especial freshness of material and treatment with reference to the minimum wage and the increased cost of living.

A very readable introduction of 20 pages, by Dr. Bauer, reviews previous investigations of movements of wages and food prices, showing early untrustworthiness but an improvement in quality as the inquiries come to be based upon household accounts. After noting some differences between free-trade and tariff-protected countries, Bauer points out that the investigations of Dr. Lichtenfelt and Dr. Krömmelbein attempt to get at the physiological basis of the German workman's sustenance and its cost. The conclusions are that there is a hygienic minimum wage; that underpayment brings sickness, which is a burden to the industry collectively; that this minimum of real wages must be understood; that the amount of increase in price from a tariff policy goes not as protection to the workman, but is a burden to industry; and finally that the more the daily quota of the workman exceeds the hygienic minimum, by so much more is the Kulturminimum raised and the work made efficient.

Dr. Lichtenfelt's investigation is based upon inquiries involving some 20,000 laborers of every variety of occupation and in every part of Germany. He works out the amount in weight of food of some twenty varieties needed for an able-bodied man and the proportionate amount needed for other members of a family. Many interesting and valuable tables of statistics show the percentages of weight for the different articles of food and the percentages for the different kinds of nutritive value as proteids, fats, and carbonhydrates. A general conclusion seems to indicate that a larger percentage should be devoted to animal proteids.

In the latter part of the volume we find Dr. Krömmelbein's investigation of the rise in the cost of living as shown in the prices of food products. His work has especial reference to the

city of Basle as typical of Switzerland, being based on the household accounts of four families of that city. The accounts show a large increase in the cost of the necessaries of life, especially in the cost of meat. The tables setting forth details fill some 125 pages. They are interesting and are probably typical of most families of the community. In concluding Dr. Krömmelbein sets forth the tariff policy as the only cause of the increased prices, a conclusion which most economists will find entirely inadequate.

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- EHRENBERG, R. and RACINE, H. Krupp'sche Arbeiter-Familien. Entwicklung und Entwicklungs-Faktoren von drei Generationen deutscher Arbeiter. Archiv für exakte Wirtschaftsforschung, Ergänzungsheft 6. (Jena: Fischer, 1912. Pp. viii, 398. 12 m.)
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